

**Introduced by Senator Burton**

March 3, 2004

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An act to amend Section 19202 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to seismic safety, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1898, as introduced, Burton. Seismic safety: gas shutoff devices.

Existing law requires any new seismic gas shutoff device sold in this state to be certified by the State Architect, who is required to establish a fee for the certification that is continuously appropriated to the State Architect for the costs of administering the certification program. Existing law requires the State Architect to certify seismic gas shutoff devices and automatic gas shutoff devices that are not activated by motion, but are activated by significant gas leaks or overpressure surges, that meet specified requirements. Any violation of these and various other earthquake safety device requirements is a misdemeanor.

This bill would provide that an automatic gas shutoff device that is not activated by motion, but is activated by significant gas leaks or overpressure surges, means a gas shutoff device that shuts off the gas in a building if it detects, during or immediately after an earthquake, an increase in the flow of gas, as specified, shuts off the gas in a building if the flow of gas in the main line in a building exceeds its design limits, and detects small leaks within 24 hours, as specified. By imposing new requirements for gas shutoff devices, which would require certification with the State Architect, the bill would generate additional fees that would be continuously appropriated to that office.

Because violation of these provisions relating to earthquake protection is a punishable as a misdemeanor, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program by changing the definition of a crime.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 19202 of the Health and Safety Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 19202. The State Architect shall certify seismic gas shutoff  
4 devices ~~which~~ *that*, as determined by the State Architect, comply  
5 with Chapter 12-23 (commencing with Section 12-23-101) of Part  
6 12 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and ~~which~~  
7 *that* meet all of the following requirements:  
8 (a) (1) The design of the device shall be operationally  
9 simplistic with an integral process design for assuring an optimum  
10 level of control and trouble-free functional operation.  
11 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), automatic gas shutoff  
12 devices that are not activated by motion, but are activated by  
13 significant gas leaks or overpressure surges, shall be certified by  
14 the State Architect, if they otherwise meet the requirements of this  
15 section.  
16 (b) The design of the device shall provide a proven method to  
17 automatically provide for expedient and safe gas shutoff in an  
18 emergency.  
19 (c) The design of the device shall minimize or preclude the  
20 disruption to the flow of gas from erroneous vibrations, alien  
21 forces, or both erroneous vibrations and alien forces.  
22 (d) The design of the device shall provide a capability for ease  
23 of consumer or owner resetting without concern for safety.  
24 (e) The operational and functional design of the device shall be  
25 at least equal to the device certified by the State Architect pursuant  
26 to Article 6 (commencing with Section 19180).



1     (f) *An automatic gas shutoff device activated by significant gas*  
2     *leaks or overpressure surges means a gas shutoff device that does*  
3     *all of the following:*

4     (1) *Shuts off the gas in a building if it detects, during or*  
5     *immediately after an earthquake, an increase in the flow of gas*  
6     *after an earthquake as compared to the flow of gas immediately*  
7     *prior to the earthquake.*

8     (2) *Shuts off the gas in a building if the flow of gas in the main*  
9     *line in a building exceeds its design limits.*

10    (3) *Detects small leaks within 24 hours by comparing the*  
11    *current minimal gas flow with the original minimal gas use*  
12    *baseline figure stored in the gas safety valve's internal memory.*

13    SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
14    Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
15    the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
16    district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
17    infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
18    for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
19    the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
20    the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
21    Constitution.

